

ULVERSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For the Year 1949.

ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1949.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	3,196
Population	...	...	...	9,750
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	2,962
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£58,804
Amount produced by a penny rate	...	...	...	£238

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

One hundred and seventy five births, 78 male and 97 female, were registered during the year. The birth rate of 17.9 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 16.7 per 1,000 in 1948. Four of the births were of illegitimate children.

STILLBIRTHS.

Two stillbirths were registered giving a stillbirth rate of 11 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS.

One hundred and forty deaths of residents were reported during the year, 75 male and 65 female. The death rate of 12.8 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 12.7 per 1,000 in 1948.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Four deaths of infants under one year of age occurred. The sexes, ages and causes of death were :—

M.	10 hours.	Marasmus, premature birth.
M.	11 months.	Acute heart failure, broncho-pneumonia.
F.	3 weeks.	Marasmus, premature birth.
F.	1 hour.	Cerebral haemorrhage, precipitate labour.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE :—Nil.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :—Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1949.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Male.	Female.	Total
1	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid fevers				—	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
7	Acute infective encephalitis				...	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever				...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system				1	1	2
10	Other tuberculosis diseases				...	—	—
11	Syphilitic diseases...				...	—	—
12	Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis				...	—	—
13	Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus				...	...	...
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum				3	2	5
15	Cancer of breast				...	2	2
16	Cancer of all other sites...				6	7	13
17	Diabetes				...	1	2
18	Intracranial vascular lesions				...	13	16
19	Heart disease				...	20	46
20	Other circulatory diseases				...	—	—
21	Bronchitis				...	2	5
22	Pneumonia				...	2	5
23	Other respiratory diseases				...	—	—
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum				...	—	—
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years				...	—	—
26	Appendicitis				...	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases				...	—	—
28	Acute and chronic nephritis				...	1	1
29	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis				...	—	—
30	Other maternal causes				...	—	—
31	Premature birth, congenital malformation, birth injury, etc.				...	2	3
32	Senility				...	14	21
33	Suicide				...	—	2
34	Road traffic accidents				...	—	—
35	Other violent causes				...	—	3
36	All other causes				...	5	10
					65	75	140

The chief causes of death of Urban District residents in 1949 as shown by the above table were :— Heart disease 46, Senility 21 and Cancer 24. Two deaths occurred from Tuberculosis.

CANCER.

Brief particulars of the 24 deaths from this disease are shown below :—

Site.				Male.	Female.	Total.
Stomach	...	...	...	3	2	5
Rectum	...	...	...	1	2	3
Oesophagus	...	...	...	1	1	2
Lung	...	...	...	2	—	2
Uterus	...	...	...	—	2	2
Breast	...	...	...	—	2	2
Colon	...	...	...	2	—	2
All other sites	...	...	...	1	5	6
				10	14	24

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 smaller towns and this district.

Year	England and Wales.		148 Smaller Towns. 25—50,000 population.		Ulv. Urban District.	
	Births	Deaths.	Births	Deaths.	Births	Deaths.
1945...	16.1	11.4	19.2	12.3	13.1	12.3
1946...	19.1	11.5	21.3	11.7	18.1	12.3
1947...	20.5	12.0	22.2	11.9	20.4	15.1
1948...	17.9	10.8	19.2	10.7	16.7	12.7
1949...	16.7	11.7	18.0	11.6	17.9	12.8

The age distribution of deaths in 1949 is shown below :—

-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	30-	40-	50-	60-	65-	70-	75-	80-	85-	90-
4	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	19	19	16	21	27	17	6	6
Total 140.															

66.4 per cent of deaths were in persons of 65 and over.

General Provision of Health Services.

PERSONNEL.

Medical Officer of Health:—A. Dodd, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments held:— Medical Officer of Health—Ulverston Combined Sanitary District.
Divisional Medical Officer: Health Division No. 1, Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector:— C. T. Hague, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.

Other Appointments held:— Engineer and Surveyor— Ulverston Urban District Council.
Manager, Gas and Water Undertaking—Ulverston Urban District Council.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:—D. Sartorius, Joint Board Certificate —Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods.

Other Appointments held:— Meat Inspector— Ulverston Urban District Council.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the hospital laboratory of the Barrow and Furness Hospital Management Committee situated at High Carley Sanatorium, assisted, if necessary, by the Public Health Laboratory at Liverpool. Chemical analyses, as required, are sent to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

Maternity and Child Welfare, School Medical, Dental and Health Visiting Services, Ulverston Combined Sanitary District.

These services are provided by the Lancashire County Council. Routine child welfare clinics, minor ailment clinics, dental clinics and school medical and dental inspections are undertaken by Assistant County Medical and Dental Officers with health visitors and school nurses. The ophthalmic surgeon, obstetrician and orthopaedic specialist attend the appropriate eye, ante-natal and post-natal and orthopaedic clinics at Ulverston and Dalton-in-Furness.

The times and places where the County Council Clinics are held are shown below :—

ULVERSTON—Brogden Street :

Monday	a.m.	Minor Ailments Redressing Clinic. Dental Clinic.
	p.m.	Ante-Natal Clinic. Dental Clinic.
Tuesday	a.m.	Orthopaedic Clinic. Dental Clinic.
	p.m.	Dental Clinic. Orthopaedic Clinic (every two months).
Wednesday	a.m.	Minor Ailments and Inspection Clinic.
	p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.
Thursday	a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic. Dental Clinic.
	p.m.	Dental Clinic.
Friday	a.m.	Dental Clinic.
	p.m.	Dental Clinic.
Saturday	a.m.	Immunisation Clinic, second Saturday each month, 10—11 a.m.

DALTON—Dowdales Clinic :

Monday	a.m.	Nil.
	p.m.	Immunisation, First Monday each month, 2 p.m.
Tuesday	a.m.	Minor Ailments Redressing Clinic.
	p.m.	Nil.

Wednesday	a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic.
	p.m.	Ante-Natal Clinic.
Thursday	a.m.	Minor Ailments and Inspection Clinic.
	p.m.	Child Welfare Clinic.
Friday	a.m.	Nil.
	p.m.	Nil.

CONISTON—Church Rooms, Yewdale Road :

First Friday each month, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

KIRKBY—Beckside School :

Third Friday each month, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

GRAYTHWAITE—Hazelseat.

First Wednesday each month, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

HAWKSHEAD—Town Hall :

Last Wednesday each month, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

GRANGE—Congregational Sunday School, Kents Bank Road :

Tuesday fortnightly, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water is supplied by Barrow Corporation from Pennington Reservoir to the Ulverston Urban District Council's water-works at Castle Hill, Pennington. Here the water is sand filtered before storage in a service reservoir of 2½ million gallons capacity. Before passing into the trunk main from the reservoir the water is subjected to chlorination.

The supply of water was adequate during the year.

Samples of water were examined bacteriologically on the dates and from the places shown below :—

Water from a house in Watery Lane, Ulverston: 5th Jan., 1949.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. 0.

No faecal coli.

Water from a house in Urswick Road, Ulverston: 6th Apr., 1949

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. 0.

No faecal coli.

Water from a house in Newton St., Ulverston: 15th Aug., 1949.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. 3.

No faecal coli.

Water from a house in Buxton Place, Ulverston: 10th Nov, 1949

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. 0.

No faecal coli.

This pure supply serves 2,852 dwelling houses, representing approximately 9,260 persons and serves also 96 dwelling houses by means of standpipes, representing another 430 persons.

Fourteen houses in the Urban District, representing approximately 60 persons, get a water supply from private sources.

HOUSING.

During 1949 the Urban District Council erected 52 permanent houses all of which were tenanted at the end of the year.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases^a

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases, after correction, which occurred in the Urban District during the five years 1944-1948 compared with the numbers in 1949.

Disease	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949		
						No. of Cases	Removed to Hospital	No. of D'ths
Scarlet Fever	8	6	5	6	33	17	17	—
Diphtheria	6	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Typhoid and para-typhoid	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	158	20	1	56	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	14	4	3	—	46	—	—
Pneumonia	7	2	2	5	8	6	6	—
Erysipelas	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	6	—	3	3	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	3	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Dysentery	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	191	53	15	79	42	74	28	—

SCARLET FEVER.

Seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever, 7 male and 10 female, were notified during the year. All the patients were removed to hospital. There was no evidence in any case that milk was responsible for the spread of the disease.

POLIOMYELITIS / POLIOENCEPHALITIS IN THE ULVERSTON COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICT.

In 1949, 9 cases of Poliomyelitis or Polioencephalitis were notified in the Ulverston Combined Sanitary District. Three of these occurred in the Ulverston Urban District, three in the Ulverston Rural District, two in the Dalton Urban District and one in the Grange Urban District.

The incidence of Poliomyelitis/Polioencephalitis since 1900 in the four districts now forming the Ulverston Combined Sanitary District is shown in the following table.

Year.	Ulverston Urban.	Ulverston Rural.	Dalton-in-Furness Urban.	Grange-over- Sands Urban.
1900-1911	—	—	—	—
1912	1	—	—	—
1913	1	8	6	—
1914	—	—	—	—
1915	1	1	—	—
1916	—	1	—	—
1917	1	1	—	—
1918	—	—	—	—
1919	—	1	3	—
1920	—	1	—	—
1921	—	1	—	—
1922	—	—	—	—
1923	—	—	—	1
1924-1939	—	—	—	—
1940	1	1	—	—
1941-1943	—	—	—	—
1944	1	—	—	—
1945-1946	—	—	—	—
1947	7	8	1	1
1948	—	—	—	—
1949	3	3	2	1

The table below shows the age, sex, date of onset, result of infection and the district in which the patient resided respecting the cases which occurred in 1949.

Case No.	Age.	Sex.	Date of Onset.	Result.	District.
1	7	F.	4/1/1949.	Recovered.	Colton.
2	12	M.	17/9/1949.	Died.	Hawkshead.
3	17	M.	26/9/1949.	Died.	Grange.
4	27	M.	28/9/1949.	Recovered.	Ulverston.
5	5	M.	28/9/1949.	Recovered.	Dalton.
6	44	M.	29/9/1949.	Recovered.	Ulverston
7	7	F.	13/10/1949.	Died.	Newland.
8	2	F.	15/10/1949.	Recovered.	Martin.
9	29	F.	23/10/1949.	Still in hospital.	Ulverston.

It will be observed from the above table that three deaths from the disease occurred during the year, giving a case mortality of 33.3%. No deaths occurred in adults. The two youths who died had been undertaking strenuous exercise at the time of onset and for a few days previously.

Although that was the position at the end of the year one death from the disease has since occurred giving a case mortality of 44.4%. The patient who died was the female aged 29 who was still in hospital at the end of the year.

Of the five cases who recovered some had residual paralysis or weakness.

No connection was traced between any of these cases. No two cases occurred in one family. No history of contact with a previous case was obtained in any instance and there was no history of recent tonsillectomy in any case.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The tuberculosis service in the Ulverston Combined Sanitary District is administered by the Regional Hospital Board. The Sanitary Authority and the County Council are responsible for

matters relating to prevention and to care and after-care. A tuberculosis health visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council. The Dispensary at Ulverston is attended by the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the district and the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. Extensive facilities for the investigation and treatment of tuberculosis are available at High Carley Sanatorium, near Ulverston.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1949.

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
Years		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	.....	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10—	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	....	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
20—	.....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston residents during the past twelve years.

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1938	7	3	3	2	2	1	—	2
1939	4	3	3	4	3	1	—	—
1940	3	6	7	6	3	—	1	1
1941	4	6	7	4	1	—	—	—
1942	7	5	4	7	3	3	—	1
1943	11	14	3	5	3	3	1	—
1944	9	7	5	6	1	2	1	—
1945	4	10	3	2	4	1	—	—
1946	8	2	1	2	5	1	—	—
1947	6	3	1	2	—	3	—	—
1948	1	6	1	—	4	4	—	—
1949	1	4	2	—	1	1	—	—

In conclusion I thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, and, in particular the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector, for courtesy and help.

The reports of the Sanitary Inspector and the Additional Sanitary Inspector are appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. DODD,

Medical Officer of Health

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit a summary of the work relating to Public Health Administration carried out by the Department during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1949.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS, ETC.

The following is a summary of complaints dealt with by informal notices.

1. Insufficient or insanitary accommodation for house refuse	41
2. Defective condition of the premises	37
3. Defective and obstructed drains and W.C.s	7
4. Inadequate water supply	4
5. Accumulations or deposits	4
6. Insanitary earth closets	3
7. Verminous premises	19
8. Miscellaneous	4
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	119

The following cases were dealt with by the service of statutory notices under the Public Health Act, 1936. The requirements of the notices have been complied with.

Defective condition of the premises 3

A large number of cases have been dealt with successfully by personal contact and co-operation with owners.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Slum Clearance is still in abeyance.

Four houses were found to be unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense and closed.

The tenants of three of the four houses were re-housed, it was not necessary to provide accommodation for one tenant.

In all cases undertakings were given by the owners of the properties not to re-let the houses.

PERMANENT HOUSING.

1. LOCAL AUTHORITY.

During the year under review 52 Council Houses were completed.

2. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Licences to build 22 houses were issued during the year by the Surveyor's Department, 18 of which are under construction.

The four houses approved in 1948 were completed and occupied in 1949.

ADAPTATIONS AND CONVERSIONS.

The following conversions and adaptations have been carried out by private persons under licences issued by the Surveyor's Department, providing additional housing accommodation.

1. Premises above shop in Market Street converted into living accommodation.

2. Conversion of part of house known as Candlewyck into a separate cottage.

3. Conversion of No. 16 King Street, into flat and lock-up shop.

4. Conversion of part of farm buildings at Canal Foot into a dwelling house.

5. Conversion of house in Church Walk to two dwellings.

6. Conversion of rooms over 64 Market Street to separate dwelling.

7. Conversion of Stanley Mount into two separate dwellings.

During the year licenses have been issued by the Surveyor's Department for essential repairs to domestic buildings and the work carried out has resulted in bringing the properties to a better standard of maintenance.

Some of the principal improvements carried out are given below :—

Renewal and provision of Sanitary Installations	3
Renewal and provision of piped water supplies	6
Structural repairs to defective properties	12
Remedying dampness	7

28

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The system has received the usual attention and has been maintained in an efficient manner.

All drains and private sewers laid by local contractors have been tested and inspected. The connections to the public sewers have been made by the department's staff.

WATER SUPPLY.

A pure and adequate water supply has been maintained without interruption throughout the year.

Samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis and have proved satisfactory.

SHOPS ACT, 1934, AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Close liaison has been maintained with H.M. Factories Inspectors and cases arising have been dealt with satisfactorily.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE COLLECTION.

This work has been carried out efficiently and the controlled tip has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The usual dressings of insecticides have been applied to the tip to prevent any infestations.

The following salvage has been sorted and sold during the year.

	T	cwts.	qrs.
Waste paper	42	15	3
Bones	1	5	0
Kitchen waste	18	0	0

Salvaged materials realised £224 18s 7d. It will be seen that the figures above are considerably below last year, this was due to the fact that the market for waste paper virtually disappeared overnight in July. Since that date considerable difficulty has been met with in the disposal of waste paper.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases have been notified

Scarlet Fever	17
Diphtheria	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	1
Acute poliomyelitis	3
	<hr/>
	22

Disinfection to premises has been carried out as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	17
Diphtheria	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	1
Acute poliomyelitis	3
Tuberculosis	6
Other Causes	4
	<hr/>
	32

RAT DISINFESTATION.

This work continues satisfactorily. Routine treatments of the sewers, controlled tip, sewage works, salvage depot and beck courses have been carried out.

In addition private dwellings and business premises have been treated as follows :

Private Houses	211
Business premises	4
Local Authority properties	17
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	232

In conclusion I wish to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the help given by Mr. D. Sartorius, Additional Sanitary Inspector, in carrying out general sanitary inspections in addition to Meat and Food Inspection work.

The report of Mr. D. Sartorius with respect to the inspection and supervision of food is appended.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. T. HAGUE,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

Supervision and Inspection of Food.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit a summary of the work carried out under the above heading during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1949

MEAT INSPECTION.

Centralised slaughtering still continues at the Ministry of Food Abattoir, The Gill, Ulverston.

Number of animals slaughtered at the Abattoir :

CATTLE.	CALVES.	SHEEP.	PIGS.	TOTAL.
1211	1456	6579	128	9374.

Number of whole carcasses and offals condemned :

BEEF.	VEAL.	MUTTON.	PORK.	TOTAL.
56	79	44	4	183

Causes of Condemnation.

1.	Cattle :	Generalised Tuberculosis	35	
		Other Causes	21	
			—	56
2.	Calves :	Congenital Tuberculosis	4	
		Other Causes	75	
			—	79
3.	Sheep :	Oedema and Emaciation	24	
		Other Causes	20	
			—	44
4.	Pigs :	Generalised Tuberculosis	2	
		Fevered Flesh	2	
			—	4

In addition to the above large quantities of offals were condemned.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following articles of unsound food have been voluntarily surrendered by the owners for destruction.

Tins of Meat	49
Tins of Jam	14
Tins of Beans	46
Tins of Tomatoes	12
Tins of Fruit	60
Tins of Milk	98
Tins of Soup	27
Tins of Peas	47
Tins of Fish	36

Tins of Vegetables	21
Tins of Meat and Vegetables	48
Wet Fish	7½ stones.
Smoked Haddock	4 stones.
Kippers	21 lbs.
Sausages	24 lbs.
Bacon	7 lbs.
Cheese	10 lbs.
Tea	14 lbs.
Liquid Egg	30 lbs.
Dried Peas	2 cwts.
Sugar	14 lbs.

MILK SUPPLY.

As from the 1st October, 1949, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries took over the supervision of production of milk. The local authority still retains supervision over milk distributors who are not producers.

Prior to 1st October, 1949, there were 20 Registered Dairy Farms and 30 retail purveyors of milk.

Regular inspection of the farms and dairies was carried out and the conditions were satisfactory.

During the year the sale of tuberculin tested milk and pasteurised milk increased and the sale of raw, loose, untreated milk correspondingly decreased. This desirable tendency will no doubt steadily increase and a safe milk supply be ensured.

Samples of milk have been submitted both for bacteriological examination and tubercle inoculation. One sample proved to be positive to the tubercle test and appropriate action was taken.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Inspections of food preparing premises have been made and attention drawn to any unsatisfactory conditions at the time of inspection. There was a general improvement in the structural condition of the premises and much new equipment has been installed.

ICE CREAM.

Number of manufacturers registered for the manufacture, sale and storage of ice-cream ... 2.

Number of retailers registered for sale of ice-cream ... 11.

The provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations have been complied with.

Samples of ice-cream submitted for examination proved satisfactory.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

D. SARTORIUS,

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

